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TESTIMONY
OF THE
Fathers LOVE,

U N T O

All that desire after him; under what Name of Religion soever they be, or are called by; That they may turn to the Lord, and may wait upon him, to receive satisfaction to their Immortal Souls, being delivered from all false Ways and Worships, and from all false Teachers and Deceivers, many of whom have been in the World; who have run, and God never sent them, and therefore they have not profited the People at all.

And also a Testimony concerning the spiritual Government and Reign of Christ, which all people ought to wait for, That Christ (the Truth) may dwell in them, and may Reign and Rule in their Hearts, whose Right onely it is.

Shewing how every one is to wait to know Christ to reign in them, to destroy Death, and the Power of Death, the Devil and his Works; and that such only shall Reign with Christ: And how that they are deceived that say they look for, and expect Christ to reign, and in the mean time Sin reigneth in them, & Christ's Enemies are not destroyed, but reign in their hearts, in which Christ must reign, or else they can never reign with him in this World, nor in the World to come.

With a few words to *England*, even to all people therein, that they may take heed of vexing the Lord by oppressing his people, least the day of their Visitation pass over, and the things that belong to their peace be quite hid from their eyes.

By a Subject of Christ, who waits to see his Kingdom exalted over all, and the Kingdom of the Devil destroyed, *Joseph Coale.*

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TESTIMONY

FOR THE

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A Testimony of the Father's Love, &c.

THE Lord God, whose loving-kindness is everlasting, whose Mercies endure for ever and ever, hath appeared as in the days of old, and hath manifested, and is manifesting his Eternal Power, and his everlasting Truth, and the Way of Life and Salvation unto the sons of men; to the satisfaction and full contentment of many who have sought and desired after him, and patiently waited upon him, whom he hath made partakers of his Love in Christ Jesus the Light, the Light of the World, in whom they have believed, whom God is exalting, and giving him a Name above every Name, and at his Name must every knee bow; and he must reign as King in the hearts of men, whose Right it is: And now hath the Lord opened the Fountain of everlasting Life, and is satisfying many with his goodness, and filling them, and refreshing them with that which is Eternal and everlasting; and he hath sent forth, and is sending forth many of his Children and Servants, who have drank at the Fountain of living Water, to *invite*, and call in the *thirsty*, that they may come and be *satisfied*, and the *hungry*, that they may be *filled* with the Bread of Life, that perisheth not, but endureth for ever, that they may come out of those things that perish, that are seen, and carnal, to know that which whosoever eateth thereof, and feedeth thereupon, shall never dye, but live for ever.

And now all people that desire after the Lord, and hunger and thirst after him, who cannot find satisfaction in any thing below, or short of him, *Arise, arise, and come away, come ye, and take of the waters of Life freely; Ho every one that thirsteth come buy Wine and Milk without money, and without price; and no longer spend your money for that which is not Bread, and your labour for that which doth not satisfy; incline your ears, and hear, that your*

souls may live; and come and eat that which is good, & *weary* not your selves for very Vanity, as many have done, who have gone *day after day*, and *time after time*, to hear men speak a Divination of their own Brain; and this hath done you no good at all, neither have you been truly satisfied therewith; but these have deceived you, and cheared you; and made you spend your money for that which is not bread; and many in England may witness this, who have spent and given much Money or Goods, and yet want that which satisfieth the Immortal soul, which none can satisfy but the Lord: And so they have cheated and deceived people, and led them in blindness and ignorance, and made them give them money for leading them in blindness and ignorance (though they have pretended otherwise) and the hungry have not been satisfied, nor the diseased strengthened, neither have they healed that which was sick, neither have they bound up that which was broken, nor brought again that which was driven away; neither have they sought that which was lost, but with force and with Cruelty have they ruled them: And thus have the false Prophets in England done, even ruled over the people by force and Cruelty, & compelled them to give them Wages, though they do not profit by them. And this hath greatly displeased the Lord, and therefore hath he stretcht forth his hand against them, the stroke whereof they must feel. And now the Lord is come to seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and he will bind up that which was broken, and he will strengthen that which was sick; but he will destroy the fat, and the strong he will feed with judgment, and the hungry and thirsty he will satisfy; for he hath opened the Fountain of Life, and the hungry may come and be satisfied.

Wherefore all you that have desires after the Lord, who have been scattered upon the barren Mountains; where satisfaction is not to be found, and have been made a prey upon by the Idol-Shepherds; Come out, come out from amongst them, and be you separate from them, for they have deceived, and do deceive you; and whilst you follow them, you will never find satisfaction to your souls, for they are not sent of God, neither do they

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turn any to him from the evil of their ways, because they have not stood in God's Counsel: And this is truth from the Lord to you, which he hath shewed me; and therefore am I constrained to testifie against them who was once deceived by them; and now through the tender mercy of the Lord am gathered from them: And now is the Lord *discovering* of them, & *gathering* his people from them, & *satisfying* & *feeding* them in green and fresh Pasture upon the Mountains of Israel; and now are people invited to come and take of the Waters of Life freely; and the Day is appeared, and the glorious Light is shining forth, by which people may come to see their estate & conditions, how they have been strayed from God, wandering up & down as Sheep that have no Shepherd, and have not known the Way of peace, but have walked in many ways and by-paths, following those that have cryed, *Lo here*, and *Lo there*; one crying, *This is the Way*; another, *That is the way*; and every one crying up that way *that he is in*, to be the Way of God; and every sort of people get the Scriptures to prove that they are in the Right Way, because they say they do and practise many things which the Saints did practice, who were in the Way of God, as the Prophets and Apostles.

Now this I say to all people upon the Earth, and this is the Testimony of one who hath been in many ways, and wandered up and down in many by-paths, and from a Child had a desire to know, and to walk in the way of the Lord, and knew not which, or where it was; and now after long seeking, is come to know the true and living way, even the Way of Peace, of Life and Salvation; I say, the Way of God is called the Way of Holiness, in which the Redeemed of the Lord walk, where the unclean cannot come.

Therefore all you that talk of the Way of God, and say you are in his Way, see if the Way that you walk in, be holy; For though you may do many things which the Apostles and Saints did, yet you may be out of the Way of Holiness, which is Christ the Light; and you may practice many things which they did, and not by the same Spirit, for a man's saying as the Apostles did, and doing many things which they did, this doth not prove that he is in the same Way; for if so, those Apostles that

that the Apostle spoke of, that had the form of Godliness *onely*, and *not the Power*, might have said they were in the Way; and here are all the *Hypocrites* and *false Christians* upon the Earth, who will cry, *We do and practise those things which the Apostles did, and we are in their way, &c.* But I say, *Do you do those things, and Practise those things in the same way, and by the same Spirit and Power as they did?* For the Practice of the Saints, I do not at all deny, who were guided and led by the Spirit of Truth in what they did; neither any who are led by the same Spirit to do those things; and such are in the right Way that are led by the Spirit of Truth into all Truth. But against all such I do bear Testimony, who say *they are in the way of God, and walk in it*, because (they say) they do those things that the Saints did, but feel not the same Spirit to lead them, and the same Power to change them inwardly, as the Saints witnessed.

And so all that desire to know the Way of God, and to walk in it, they must come to the Light which Christ hath lighted them withall, which lets them see their sins; and reproveth them when they do evil; and that will let them see the way out of sin, and out of darkness: Now CHRIST is the way out of sin, death and darkness, and none come to Christ, but they that own the Light within them, which reproveth them for sin; and so people can never know the Way of God, which is the Way of Peace, till they turn into, and believe in the Light which convinceth of sin, and leadeth out of it; but many people may be contented to talk of the Way of the Lord, but do not walk in it, because narrow is the Way, and straight is the Gate that leadeth to life, & few there are that find it, few there be that walk in it; for People cannot walk in it, & live in wickedness & unrighteousness too; and so many love rather to walk on in wickedness, then to walk in the way of the Lord which is holy, which is not of this World, in which the redeemed walk; & this way hath the Lord our God now made manifest to the Sons of men, even the Way of Life and Salvation, and blessed and happy are they for ever that know it, and walk therein.

And all you that have been high in the Profession of Religion, whom once I loved when you were tender, and your desires

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were after the Lord, & when you were in some measure obedient to that Light which was given you of God, which did let you see the Deceit of the Priests of the World, and led you (or some of you) out from them, & to deny them; & did let you see their ways, *Worships* & *Performances* to be *Idolatries*, even that I say was the *Light* of the Son of God, though you did not know it, which did convince you of those things; & how did many of you cry out against the Priests as *Deceivers* and *Antichristian*, & against their *Tythes* and *set-Maintenances*; and some of you did desire to walk in Truth and Righteousness, and those did my soul love: And now unto all such among you is this my *Invitation*, and unto such I *CALL*, *Come out*, and be separated, and feed with them no longer upon the husk, and drink no longer with them of the Wine of their Fornication; But come to the Fountain which is now set open, that your souls may be satisfied with that which is truly good: But Oh! how are you revolted and gone backward, and not forward! Alas! Alas! I pity you, I pity you; my soul pitieth you; Oh! how are you become one with them, whom once you resisted against! And those things which you once denied, how are you creeping into! For which, the Lord God hath a Controversie with you, and he will plead with you; and all your talk of *Ordinances* will not excuse you: Wherefore Repent, and turn to the Lord ye *Rebellious Children*, lest the Decree be sealed against you, and the Lord say, *You shall not enter into his Rest*. You have dishonored the Lord, and betrayed your Testimony, and are become *Slaves* and *Bondmen* to the King of *Babylon*, and you are under the Reign of *Antichrist*, and *Christ* the *Light* of the World you have rejected, and there's no room for him in your hearts, and he doth not reign in you, but *Death* reigneth, and not *Life*. Oh! what a large Profession have you made! But how are you dry and barren, as towards God! And indeed Friends, great darkness is over you, because of your *Rebellion* against the *Light* within you, and you are dead and dry as to the living *Virtue* and *Power* of God; search your selves with the *Light* of *Jesus Christ*, and see what you do enjoy and possess of that which is *Eternal*, you that have the good words, that profess the *Scriptures* of *Truth*. See what reigneth in you, and what *Power* you are subject to, whether

whether the Power of God, or the Power of darkness: Doth not the Prince of Darkness reign in your hearts, even the God of this World? Do you not *serve him*, and *serve graven Images*, and worship the Works of your own hands? Verily such will the Lord confound, that boast themselves of *Idols*, for of a Truth the Lord is risen to break down your Images and Likenesses which you have set up, even all that which you have made and done, which was like unto the Saints in appearance, and you not in the same Power, nor in reality what you seemed to be; but *Deceit* and *Hypocrisie* hath lodged under your fair shews, and glorious out-sides; and this hath been very loathsome and abominable in the sight of God, who hath been provoked to anger because of these things.

Therefore *Awake* ye *Sluggards* and *careless ones*, who sleep and are at ease in the Flesh; for the Day of the Lord is come, and your fields are *overgrown* with weeds, & your ground doth bring forth *Briars and Thorns*; for indeed it was never yet truly broken up, but you are *stiff & hard*, and a *Hammer* must ye know, ye *Rocks* and *Mountains*, to break you, and to *shatter you*, and your high Buildings must be thrown down, and this shall you know to be true unto you, if you can receive it, do.

Wherefore all you that desire after the Lord, and thirst after him, slight not the Call of God, nor reject the gentle drawings of his good Spirit; receive his Love, and come to the Fathers House, where there is Bread enough, and full satisfaction; rest not in outward things; neither look at those things that are seen, for they are Carnal, and do not satisfie the Immortal Soul, and there the Enemy keepeth many in outward things, crying up, outward things, but still he keeps possession within, and rules in their hearts; And I believe and know he hath thus deceived many, keeping them in outward things, and in the profession of the Scriptures; for that doth him no hurt, neither is it any way destructive to his Kingdom to profess the Scriptures and Ordinances, and he can bear with this: But to speak of turning to the Light, and waiting in the silence of all Flesh, to feel the Power of God within to give victory over sin, and to destroy and make free from that now while we are here upon the Earth, this makes him rage and cry out, Oh! you deny the

the Ordinances, and you deny the means, and perswade people they can never be free while they are here upon the earth, and cry, it is impossible, we must not expect it, but you must keep the Ordinances, and use the means; and so he is now come to tell of Ordinances, and Commands, and Duties, and such things, but would still rule in the heart, and be exalted in the Temple of God, as God, above all that is called God. And to speak of Christ within, to rule in the heart, this he cannot endure to hear tell of, nor to hear of the Light of Christ within, for that makes him manifest, and by that people come to see his subtilty, and unto that people must come, and in the Light of Christ within you, must believe, and wait to feel the power of God, which will cut down sin in you, and destroy the Devil's Works, and break down his Kingdom, that you may come to know Christ to reign, to be your Leader and Commander; for such as talk of Ordinances and Commands which they read of in the Scriptures of Truth, and go about to practice the same in their own wills, and know not the Spirit of Truth to lead them therein, the Lord hath no respect to it, but they are deceived: And therefore they that come to know the Commands of God, must know his Spirit, or else they do not know what he commands or requireth of them; but may do, and doth that which he never required or commanded them; and unto such will the Lord say, as he once said unto a people, when ye come to appear before me, *Who hath required these things at your hands?*

And now the Lord Jesus Christ is come to be the King, Captain, Leader and Commander of his people in the Spirit, & the Lord is fulfilling his promise spoken of by the Prophet, saying, *I have given him for a Witness, a Leader, and Commander to the people, and to be salvation to the ends of the earth; a Covenant to the people, a Light to the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind, and to bring the Prisoner out of the Prison-house.* And now all that come to know Salvation, must know Christ Jesus to be their Leader and Commander, and this is the reason why people have not known satisfaction, because they have had (and have followed) another Leader, and have been under the Command of another, and have been under the Reign of Anti-christ,

christ, and the Prince of Darkness hath been their Leader, and he hath reigned in them, and led them into wickedness and ungodliness, and all the Works of darkness; for if Wickedness is brought forth and acted, that is followed which leads thereunto, and then that reigns; for that Power which a man followeth, or is subject to, that reigneth over him, whether it be the Power of God, or the Power of Darkness: And this is my Testimony unto all people that live in sin and transgression, and are not changed by the Power of God, and born again; They are under the Reign of Antichrist, and Christ doth not reign in them, but Death and the Power of Darkness reigns, though they may profess Christ, and talk of Ordinances, and say they are Christians, and talk of the Reign of Christ.

Wherefore all people every where, who profess Jesus Christ, under what Name soever you be, seriously consider, and see what reigns in you, and what leads and commands you; all you that live in sin and wickedness, deceit and hypocrisy, double-dealing, lying, swearing, drunkenness, pride and covetousness, and such like, you know not Christ's Reign, and he is not your Leader, for they whom he leads, are led into Truth and Righteousness, and out of all wickedness; and such know him to reign, and he is their King and Commander, who is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, whose Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and his Dominion endureth throughout all Generations; who will break down the Kingdom of Antichrist, and put down that Rule and Authority which the Prince of darkness hath had in the hearts of men; Christ destroys that, and subdues his Enemies that would not that he should reign; and who come to know this, they may say as one said once, *The Lord reigns, let the Earth rejoice,* (Mark) *the Lord Reigns; What! Did the Lord reign then while they were upon the Earth? Yes, while they were upon the Earth, and the Saints rejoiced while they were upon the Earth, and on this side the Grave, the Power of God reigned, and Life Eternal reigned in them, over Death, and that was swallowed up of Life, and Darkness was passed away, and Sin was blotted out, and herein they rejoiced; for there is none that can truly rejoice while the Devil and Sin reigns, for when the wicked bear rule, the Land mourns; then is the time of*
mourn

mourning, though indeed many do rejoice and take pleasure in wickedness and unrighteousness; but that is not the true joy, for the end of that is mourning, lamentation and sorrow; and that joy is not everlasting; and they that come to know Jesus Christ to reign in their hearts, they know the true rejoicing, which is in the Truth, and in the Lord the righteous rejoice. But alas! many are rejoicing in the Flesh, and in Wickedness, whose joy will be turned into heaviness, who are under the Reign of Antichrist, and are ruled and governed by the Prince of Darkness, whose Government and Kingdom God will overthrow.

And oh what a great profession is in this Nation! And how many do take the pure Name of God & Christ in their mouths, and talk of Ministry, Church, Ordinances, Commands and Duties, and yet hate to be reformed, and are under the reign of Antichrist, and the Prince of Darkness ruleth in their hearts, and wickedness is brought forth abundantly in this Nation, as Envy, Cruelty, Deceit and Hypocrisie, Treachery and Double-mindedness, and false-heartedness; This is seen amongst them; And I say, they rejoice in wickedness, and not in the Truth, which makes free from such things; and cry out, *They shall never be free, nor overcome, while they are here upon the earth; and so take liberty to do wickedly as long as they live; and upon such will the vengeance of God come, and the Vials of his Wrath be poured out upon, notwithstanding their crying up Ordinances, Commands and Duties, that will not hide them (in the dreadful day of the Lord) from Rebellion against God, who know not Christ the Light of the world to command, lead and guide them, but his Light they hate and rebel against, and that doth not rule them; and he doth not reign in them, and such will never know Christ reign to their joy, joy, comfort, peace and satisfaction, who will not have him to reign in them, and to rule in the heart, whose right it is, though the Devil hath ruled in the hearts of the sons of men since transgression, in the Children of disobedience; but now are people coming to that which was before transgression, which leadeth out of transgression and destroyeth the Devil's Kingdom; and now Christ is come, to reign, and the Lord God hath decreed to exalt him, even his Son, to be King, Commander, Leader and Deliverer to his People,*

People, and he shall reign for ever and ever; and he is our King whom we Proclaim and Declare for to the Nations, who will rule them with a Rod of Iron, and break them in pieces like a Potters Vessel, that would not that he should reign over them, or in them, whom God hath highly exalted, and given a Name above every Name, and to him must the Heathen bow, Kings and Princes must bow, Judges and Nobles must bow, and kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and they perish from the way of peace, when his wrath is kindled but a little, Blessed are all they that put their trust in him; for he is come to reign, and to take the Kingdom to himself (as it is said in the Scriptures) and to break down the Kingdom of Antichrist, and the Throne of the Devil, and to put down his Rule and Authority which he hath had over people, and in them, who hath been exalted as God and King in the Temple of God, over that of God, and hath had the sway, and the whole Dominion, and would keep it; and are not many even content to be subject to him, and to have him to reign, and have Dominion in, and over them, as long as they live? And do they not in effect say so, who say, It is impossible that ever they should be free in this life, or overcome sin, and be made free from it while they are upon the Earth, on this side the Grave, and this is the cry among people: Now the Saints who were sanctified by Christ Jesus, they had overcome the wicked one, as John saith, I write unto you young men, because ye are strong, & the Word of God abideth in you, & you have overcome the wicked one: Now they that know the Word of God abiding in them, they overcome the wicked one, or the Word overcomes, and gives them victory over the wicked one, and destroys his works, & burns up that which is contrary; for the Word of God is as a fire, which did abide in the Saints, the Word was in them, through which they did overcome; and greater was he that was in them, then he that was in the world; and they that have overcome the wicked one, the Devil, who is the Author of wickedness and sin, they have, and do overcome sin; for all sin is of the Devil, the wicked one, who abode not in the truth, which the Saints (who had the Word of God in them) did overcome; and they did not say, it was impossible to overcome, and be made free while they were upon the Earth; but it was that which they did wait for, and also did attain to, through the power of the Lord, and the same is to be waited for, and

attained to in this our age; *For the Arm of the Lord is not shortened, but he is able to save to the utmost all them that do believe in him, but the unbeliever, & the disobedient shall be shut out in utter darkness.*

And therefore all people should wait to feel and to know the Word of God in them, to change them, and to destroy sin in them, and to give them victory over the Devil's Power, which hath ruled and reigned in them, that they may come to know Christ the Power and Life of God to reign in them, and to govern them: But people would reign with Christ, and live with him after death (as they say) when they can sin no longer, and do wickedness no longer, then they would reign with Christ, but plead for sin, and say, *they can never be free from it while they are here, and would be under the reign of Antichrist, under the Devil's power so long as they live upon the Earth, and then after death they would live with Christ, and reign with him.* But this I testify unto all people in the fear of the Lord, and by his Eternal Spirit do say, you must wait to know Christ to reign in your hearts, else you can never reign and live with him; and where he is, you cannot come, (except I say, you are changed by him, and he live in you) but will go into misery and sorrow for ever; and you must feel him so made manifest in you, as to destroy the Works of the Devil, and *he destroyeth death, and him that hath the power of death, which is the Devil; and binds the strong man, and casts him out, and spoils his goods which hath been laid up, and gathered in since transgression; and by the power of Christ (the stronger then he) must you come to be cleansed and redeemed out of sin and transgression, up to God, who is pure; and such shall come to Sion with Songs of Deliberance, and everlasting Joy upon their Heads, who are redeemed out of Sin and Iniquity, and these know the Lord to reign and praise him, and the joy is upon their heads; and these shall reign with Christ for ever, who are redeemed by him, and have suffered with him, and followed him in the Regeneration, and are brought from under the Reign and Power of Antichrist, by the power of Jesus Christ the Light of the World, in whom they have believed, and owned to be their King and Captain, and he is the Prince of their peace, of whom it is said, That the Government shall be upon his shoulder, and his Name shall*

shall be called; *Universal Counsellor*, the *mighty God*, the *everlasting Father*, the *Prince of Peace*, of the increase of his Government and peace there shall be no end, upon the Throne of *David*, and upon his Kingdom, to order it; and to establish it with Judgement and with Justice, from henceforth, even for ever.

Wherefore all people be awakened, and see what reigns in you, and what Government you are under, whether the Government of *Christ*, or of *Antichrist*; one of these are you under, and either *Christ* reigns in you, or the *Devil*, (and in all the sons of men upon the face of the whole Earth) and if *Christ* reigneth, then *Love*, *Joy*, *Peace*, *Meekness*, *Lowliness*, *Temperance*, *Patience*, *Goodness*, *Charity*, *Sobriety* and *Uprightness* is brought forth; but if *Envy*, *Pride*, *Oppression*, *Covetousness*, *Lying*, *Swearing*, *Drunkenness*, *Deceit* and *Hypocrisie*, *Double-dealing* and *False-heartedness*, if these things, and such like, are brought forth, then certainly the *Devil* reigneth and ruleth; for that Spirit or Power which you follow, and are led by, and are subject to; that reigneth: Now if you are led by the Spirit of Truth, then Truth and Righteousness reigneth; but if you are led by, and follow that Spirit that leads into Wickedness, then the *Devil* and Unrighteousness reigneth in you, and those afore-mentioned are the Works & Fruits of these two Spirits, which are brought forth through a man according as the one or the other rules in him; & as he is led by, & subject to the one, he is a Child of God, and an heir of his Kingdom; and if he is led by, and subject to the other, he is not beloved of God, but hated, and is a Child of Wrath; let him profess what he will.

And therefore you that desire after the Lord, hearken to that which lets you see your states and conditions; and that is the Light of the Son of God, which lets you see the darkness, and will let you see what hath reigned, and what doth reign in you; and in that you ought to believe, and in it to wait, that you may come to know *Christ Jesus*, the Power and Life of God, to reign in you, and over you; as Death hath reigned over you, so you may come to know Grace reign, through Righteousness, unto eternal life.

And

And all ye Professors who have got the words, but without the Life and Power of Godliness, who talk of Ordinances and Duties, I say unto you, All this is in vain, so long as death reigns over you, and so death may have the Fame, and Death speaks in you, and through you; and it's not a living Sacrifice that you are offering up, and the Living God of Life doth not accept of your dead offerings and sacrifices; they are abomination to him, he is weary with them: All Hypocrites and Dissemblers, who profess God in words, but in their works deny him; his Wrath is kindled against them, and his Plagues will be poured out upon them; they have provoked the Lord to anger, and he will scatter them, and they shall never be gathered; and wound them, and none shall heal them. We stretched all people in all Sects and Opinions, the LORD, the Mighty God of Jacob is risen, whose Dead is gone forth, and he will reign, let the people tremble; he sitteth between the Cherubims, let the Earth be moved; the Lord is great in Zion, and he is high above all People: Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his Footstool, for he is holy, and he will be glorified in you.

And all you that talk of the Reign and coming of Christ, and say you look for him to reign personally upon the earth, unto you this I say, Consider what benefit you will have by him, and how you are prepared for his coming; is your part in the first Resurrection? Are you not worshipping the Beast and his Image, and have you not his Mark in your foreheads? Is it not he who is blessed and holy, that hath his part in the first Resurrection, that shall reign with Christ; and on such the second death shall have no power? Doth not death reign over all, from Adam to Adase? And hath not Death power over them that are in Transgression? And are not you in Transgression? Are you redeemed out of it? Oh Friends, Consider, for the Lord is risen, and you all, and to weigh you in an equal Balance: Is Sin destroyed? What reigns in you now while you look for his Reign? And do you think that such shall reign with Christ, in whom sin reigns, and the Prince of darkness beareth Rule? I say, if such shall reign with him, (then who are they that shall not? But Friends, if ever you come to reign with Christ, you must know him, to reign in your hearts

hearts; to subdue that *in you* which would not have him to
 reign; his Enemies must be destroyed, and he must reign over
 that *in you* which is against him and his Reign, which indeed
 is alive in many; for it is such that are *holy*; and that are *san-*
ctified, whose Garments are made clean in the Blood of the
 Lamb, that shall reign with him: And therefore be not de-
 ceived, let not your vain hopes puff you up, for you shall not
 reign with Christ because you say so; but see how you are
 prepared for his coming, lest he come as a Thief in the night,
 at unawares, and find you sleeping, and at ease in the Flesh,
 and give you your portion with hypocrites and unbelievers:
 If sin reign in you, Christ doth not reign. And this I say un-
 to you in the Name of the Lord, You shall never know Christ
 reign to your joy and comfort, except you know him reign
 in your hearts; though Christ shall reign for ever and ever, but
 you will have no benefit at all by his Reign, but it will be to
 your torment, *wo* and misery, if he doth not reign in you: And
 how can you expect to reign with Christ, in whom the Prince
 of Darkness reigns? Do you think while you are here upon
 the Earth, to live in sin, and in the Kingdom, and under the
 Reign of *Antichrist*, and then after death, or when you can
 sin no longer, to reign with Christ? Oh nay! but except
 you repent, and turn to the Light of Christ in you, and in it wait
 to feel sin destroyed by the power of God, and that which de-
 stroys sin to reign in you; your hopes and expectation, and
 you will perish together; and this shall you know to be true:
 Wherefore I say, *Awake*, and sleep not the sleep of death; Come
 away, and wander not in your imaginations; Be you subject to Christ
 the Light of the World, who is come to reign, and you have
 said you looked for him; but behold he is come another way
 then you did expect him; his appearance is *within*, and you
 have been gazing *without*: Oh Turn in, turn in, that you may
 see his appearance in you, who appears in *torment* against the
hickel, and brings a *Sword* upon the earth and not peace; and
 he wounds his enemies, (not with a Carnal Sword or Wea-
 pon) and slays what which would not that Truth should reign
 any more; the enmity must be slain, and *your Carnal* minds must
 be subjected; and this must you know, before you reign with
 Christ

Christ. Now that which appears against sin and unrighteousness, is the appearance of Christ *in you*; and he that owneth not that, he owneth not the appearance of Christ, neither doth he wait for his appearance, nor can he ever know his second coming to his salvation: So you must receive that, and believe in it, which appears against sin *in you*; and that is the Light by which the Lord appears to the Creature; and that is it which may be known of God, which is manifest in the Creature; and none know God truly, but as they receive that; for God is Light, and only in the Light is he known and seen.

Therefore I say unto you, Come down (ye that have been exalted) to the Light which Christ hath lighted you withall, which lets you see your sins, and appears low and little *in you*, and talk not of *high things*, for thereby the Devil doth deceive you, and keep you in the talk and expectation of the Reign of Christ *without you*; and all that while he keeps possession *within*, and reigns *in your hearts*, and will not suffer you to own the Light, which is Christ's appearance, but tells you *it's natural and created, and not sufficient*; and this is the persuasion of the Devil, the Serpent, that persuades you thus; for all that receive it, and believe in it, they know the sufficiency of it, they know it to be sufficient to lead out of sin, and to keep out of evil ways, and it leads them in the way of peace: And this is the effect that it hath in the believer, and the unbeliever will confess *it is sufficient to condemn, to judge, and reprove for sin*, but not to lead out of it, and not to save from sin; saith he: I say, the reason is, because he receiveth it not, nor believeth in it; therefore he cannot say, it saveth or leadeth out of sin, because he never knew it so, but to be his *Condemner and Reprover*; and this effect it hath in the unbeliever: And so the Devil deceives thousands, and keeps them from the appearance of Christ *within*, to look for it *without*; and so in all ages he twined about to deceive: For when Christ appeared personally upon the Earth, then he persuaded the *Jews*; he was not yet come, but should come in another manner, for he then came contrary to their expectation; they expected him to come in *great Pomp*, and in some *external Glory*;

but behold, he was laid in a *Manger*, and there was no room for him; and they looked upon him to be some poor man, and rejected him, and would not have him to reign over them; even the *wise men* and the *Rulers*, they stood up against him, for they knew him not, neither did they see his glory, *who was full of Grace and Truth*; they did not believe that was the *Messiah*, but said *he should come*: And thus the Devil deceived them, and keeps many still in that belief, (or rather unbelief) *that he is not yet come*; And some he persuades that Christ is never to be expected to appear more in such a *Powerful, Miraculous manner*, as he did then; and that *Revelations and Inspirations are ceased*, and the *immediate Teachings of God are not to be looked for now*; but the *Scripture is to be the Rule*, and the *Guide*, and the *Teacher*, and the *immediate Spirit of God is not to be received now by any*; but *you must use the means, the means*, cries he; and thus he deceives many. And I say, others now he keeps in the expectation of his appearing personally, as he did in the time of the *Jews* outwardly, and that this is the appearance which we are to wait for in this age: And thus he deceives the Nations, & keeps them still under his Government, and he reigns in their hearts, and it doth him no hurt at all to talk of the reign of Christ, so long as the evil reigns in their hearts. Now I do not in the least deny that appearance without, and that which Christ did and suffered; but I say, None hath any benefit thereby, but such as wait to feel him revealed in them: And this is the appearance of Christ which we in this our age are to wait for, *to wit*, the appearance of Christ in us, *to destroy sin and unrighteousness, and to work out the evil corrupt nature, and to change man into his own Heavenly Image*; and all people are to wait for this, and must witness it, or else they cannot inherit God's Kingdom; and I say, he is revealed in many, and *Revelations and Inspirations are not ceased*, but are witnessed, though the unbeliever see it not; and the appearance of Christ is now as powerful as ever, even to destroy the Devil and his Works, and to beat down the Rocks and Mountains, and to make the Earth to tremble, and to open the eyes of the blind, and to unstop the ears of the deaf, and to raise the dead to life; Life Immortal is brought to light, and reveal-

revealed again, and the mighty Power of the Lord of Hosts is known again, which will shake the Earth, and make it bow; honored and glorified be his Name for ever: And we are come to know the fulfilling of the Scriptures, and we do not in the least slight or undervalue them; but we say, the Devil hath deceived people by keeping them in the profession and talk of the Scriptures, but from that which they speak and declare of; and he will not suffer people to wait for the fulfilling of the Scriptures, to receive and feel that *in them* which they speak of, for that destroys him and his Kingdom. But now I say, (praised be the Lord) many are come to know that which destroys him and his Kingdom and Government; and are come to know the fulfilling of the Scriptures, and to enjoy that which they speak of, and are come to see him whom they have desired after, even in the night-season, and he is become their satisfaction, and in him is their peace, who is the Prince of it, and God hath fulfilled, and is fulfilling his promise among them, and hath given his Son to be their *Leader and Commander*, who leads them into *Truth and Righteousness*, and out of all *Iniquity*, and every evil way; and they know the Work of *Righteousness is Peace*, and the effect of it *Quietness and Assurance* for ever.

Therefore all people are to wait to know *CHRIST JESUS* to be their *Leader and Commander*, and such that he leads and commands, he reigneth over, and *in them*, and they reign with him; and they need not *prescribe, invent, or imagine how, or when, or after what manner he shall reign*, or dispute about that, as many do, while the Devil reigns in their hearts, as I have said; and one expects him to reign according to his imagination, and another according to his, but his Enemies are not destroyed. And therefore this thing all people are chiefly to mind, to search and see *what reigns in them*, and *what power they are under*, and *what Spirit leads them*; for if they are under the Power of Darkness, they are not in a capacity to please God, whatsoever they may do, perform, or practise; and if the Spirit of God doth not lead a man, he is not a Child of God, neither can he please him; For they are the Sons of God that are led by his Spirit; and they that walk in the Spirit, do

not fulfill the desires and lusts of the Flesh; but they are led out of the lusts, and out of evil, into all truth; and in that they please God, and do that which is acceptable unto him, in that Spirit which leads out of sin; and there is none upon the Earth that can please God, serve, or worship him aright, but as they receive that Spirit of Truth, and walk in it, which doth convince the World of sin; And so all the many Worshipers upon the Earth who do not receive that, and worship in that Spirit that convinceth of sin, and leadeth out of it into all truth, they worship not the onely true, and living God, but a false God; and they are under the Reign of Antichrist: And this is truth as it is received from the Lord, unto all men.

Wherefore all people believe in that which convinceth you of sin, and in it wait, that you may feel the Power of God to destroy it in you, and that you may come to please God, and to worship him aright, and that Christ the Power of God may reign in you, over that which is contrary to the Lord: And this you ought to wait to know and feel in your selves, and the Government and Rule of the Lord Jesus Christ you ought to submit unto: For now is the day come, wherein the God of Heaven is setting up his Kingdom, which is everlasting, and shall never be destroyed; and he will overturn the Kingdom of Antichrist, and Christ shall reign in righteousness, and all that rise up against him, shall perish for ever; and all his enemies that would not have him to reign over them, must be slain by him, out of whose mouth goeth a sharp Sword, with which he will smite the Nations, and he will rule them with a Rod of Iron, and he treadeth the Winepress of the fierceness and Wrath of the Almighty God, who hath on his Vesture, and on his Thigh, a Name written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, unto whom Kings must bow and cast down their Crowns; and he will reign whose right it is, and blessed are they that are subject to him, and that wait upon him.

And why are the Nations troubled, and why do the people fret and rage? Is it because Christ is come to reign? Would they not have him to reign over them? Would it not be a pre-

precious thing to see *Englands* Inhabitants under the Government of the Lord *Jesus Christ*? How then would *Righteousness* run down our Nation as a mighty stream, and *Truth* and *Equity* meet each other; and true Judgement and *Justice* would be set up, and *Love* and *Unity* would abound, and the *mouth of wickedness* would be stopt, *Cruelty*, *Injustice* and *Oppression* would cease; *Truth* and *Righteousness* would be exalted, *Deceit* and *Hypocrisie* would be bowed under; and then, oh! then would the Lord God bless *England* with an everlasting blessing, and make it a *dread* and *terror* to all Nations of the Earth;

But on the contrary, oh *England*! if thou wilt refuse and rebel against him, even against the Lord mighty and dreadful, and chuse unto thee *Rulers* and *Governors* according to thy own heart, to oppress the poor and innocent, and afflict his chosen people, and seek to establish the Kingdom of *Antichrist*, and uphold the *false Prophets*, who preach for hire, and divine for money, which his hand is against, and against whom his wrath is already kindled, and he hath purposed in his heart to confound them, and make them a desolation for ever, because of their *Idolatries* and *Witchcrafts*: I say from the Lord, If thou dost so, then assuredly he will confound thee with them, and dash thee to pieces as he will do them, and he will reign over thee in Judgement and in fury, if thou wilt not have *Christ Jesus* to reign in thee, to govern and rule thee in righteousness: And the strongest, and greatest, and mightiest of men in thee will he bring down, conquer, and subdue by his *Eternal Power*, and their *Honour*, *Glory* and *Reverence* will he lay in the dust, and their strength will he trample upon, and they shall not prevail against him, and thou shalt know that he is high above all his *Enemies*, and the great *Mountain* shall become a *Plain*: And this will he accomplish and bring to pass by his invisible hand. Wherefore *Oh England*! be advised, and eye the Lord God of Heaven and Earth, and say not in thy heart, *He seeth me not*; but wait upon him, to receive his Council; and build not up, or establish that which he hath determined to throw down, lest thou fall'st totally

ly with it, and none can ever raise thee up again: For if the Lord throw thee down, who then shall build thee up? And if he wound thee, who can heal thee? Oh! if he be against thee, thou art miserable; & if thou dost refuse to come under his *Government of Truth and Righteousness, Justice and Equity*, thou canst not be blessed of him but his hand of Judgment will be against thee: Oh! thou hast had many warnings, but thou hast rebelled against the Lord, and hast not hearkned to his counsel, but slighted it; And therefore, O *England*, the Lord is very angry with thee, for thou hast not prized his mercies, neither hath his loving kindness been had in remembrance by thee, but thou hast forgotten this, even days without number: Yet a remnant there is in thee, who are not guilty of thy *iniquities and abominations*, for God hath chosen them from amongst men, and though they are a *Scorn*, and made a *reproach* by thy inhabitants, and *hated and persecuted*; yet they are dear unto the Lord, and they are *clear and innocent* in his sight; for whom they have *born witness* against thy *wickedness*, even to thy very face, and have not loved their lives unto death, but have warned thee from the Lord in thy *Assemblies, Markets and Synagogues*, in which they have openly proclaimed the mighty day of the Lord, & the Kingdom of God to be at hand; and have declared the way of life and salvation, and happy are they that have received their testimony, and live in that which they testify of, and walk in the truth which is their foundation; And this people are chosen of God, and he that toucheth them toucheth the Apple of his eye, and they that hate them and act against them, certainly cannot prosper; for the Lord is with them, and on their side, and wo unto him that is against them, or that seeketh their ruine, or that deviseth mischief against them: And why are thy inhabitants troubled at them? what hurt have they done? or, who do they wrong? do they not speak truth to their neighbour, and deal justly with all men, doing unto others as they would be done unto? living and walking in the fear of God, and worshipping him in *Spirit and in Truth* according to the Scriptures, waiting to see his Kingdom set up, and his *Government* among men, and that he may reign and govern in and over all; & the Kingdom of *Antichrist* destroyed, and wickedness and all unrighteousness subdued, that truth and righte-

ousness

reasons may flourish, and that the name of the Lord may be exalted over all, that he may be feared, served and obeyed for ever; and this is their very aim, and that which they wait for; and wilt thou (Oh *England*) hate them, and persecute them for this? he that doth will have much to answer for, and his judgment will be great and very heavy in the day of the Lord: And though they have been hated, persecuted, and cruelly used, as though they were *Deceivers, Disturbers, and Hereticks, &c.* Thus they have been charged, yet I say, it is for truth and righteousness sake: For in all ages, it is true, the people of God were persecuted by wicked men as *Deceivers and Hereticks, and Movers of Seditions, &c.* and as the people of God, they were never persecuted: And so it is in this our age, the people of God who are chosen and beloved of him (the despised people called *Quakers*, I mean, whom the God of Heaven hath raised up by his Infinite Power) they (I say) are counted, hated and persecuted as *Deceivers and Deceived, &c.* But this, oh! this will not excuse the persecutors of the Innocent; but it shall appear, even to them, that they have done it for Truth and Righteousness sake, though now through *Envy and Prejudice*, they are, and have been blinded, and the Lord our God will reward them according to their Works; and he will not forsake his chosen people that truly fear his Name, and wait upon, and patiently endure to the end; but he will cause them to lye down in rest and peace in himself for ever, though they are hated of this World; and his Arm shall be a defence about them, to preserve them from the mouth of the devourer, and his hand shall be against their Enemies for ever, and he that lifts up his hand against them, shall not prosper. And Oh *England!* it is for their sakes, and for the Seeds sake in thee, that the Lord overturns and brings down one Power after another, and confounds men, and dashes one against another; and it shall never be otherwise, till they cease to afflict and oppress the holy Seed, and let *Israel* go free to serve and worship their God according as his Spirit leads them; for he is the living God, the God of *Abraham, Isaas, and Jacob*, whom we serve and obey, and at whose Word we tremble, who is God over all, and doth, and bringeth to pass whatsoever he will; and it is for the

Seeds,

Seeds sate in thee, Oh *England*! that the Lord stayeth his Judgements which hang over thee, else certainly he would soon make thee as *Sodom* and *Gomorrhah*, and his heavy Judgements would overtake thee suddenly.

Therefore once more art thou warned, beware what thou dost against the Seed whom God hath blessed, and vex not the Lord by oppressing his people; but let Justice and Mercy be shewed to them, if thou expect mercy from the Lord.

F. C.

*Joseph Coale was brother of B.C.
of Reading. J.C. died there*

*a prisoner for not swearing
26. 2mo. 1670*

FINIS.

15 JY 64

